Mr. P. V. Raphael.—The answer is given in (11).

Mr. T. K. Nayar.—He pointed out that this 12 feet mortar work will not be sufficient.

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—It is true he pointed out that the whole thing cannot be done in mortar. But the retaining wall was sufficient, provided the shutters are adjusted and regulated properly. Unfortunately on the night of 3rd Thulam 1108 there were heavy rains and the shutter planks were not regulated properly.

Arecanut Market—Ottupara.

269. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether Mr. Muhamed, licensee for arecanut market at Ottupara, holds a license for Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays of the week ;

(b) was there not a time when his license was only for Wednesdays of the week ;

(c) what was the fee levied when he was doing business only on Wednesdays ;

(d) what is the fee levied when business is done on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays;

(e) what is the annual income of the Ottupara arecant market ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Rs. 100.

(d) Rs. 100.

(e) The exact annual income from the market is not known. There was no necessity to ascertain it according to the rules in force at the time of application for license. Since the rules have been revised in D. P. 18575/07, dated 12th January 1933, Development Department, and the fee fixed at 15 per cent of the gross income, the exact amount is being ascertained.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Will the Government be pleased to allow any other person to conduct the market on days other than Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I do not think Government have any objection.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—When was this conversion made?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Three or four years back.

Mr. K. G. Nayar.—The fee levied for trading on a particular day was Rs. 100 and permission was granted. Have the Government considered the desirability of increasing the fee when the contractor was given permission to trade for 3 days?

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Rama Varmha Tampuran—We have called for a report on that point.

Mr. K. G. Nayar—Is there any special reason for this concession given to this contractor? When he was allowed to trade on one day Rs. 100 was collected. Now he trades on 3 days, and only Rs. 100 is collected. Is there any special reason for giving this concession to the contractor?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It is exactly on this point that the Government have called for a report four or five days ago.

Mr. K. G. Nayar.—What was the necessity to call for a report four or five days back?

President.—Question time is over.

Commission collected by the Ottupara arecanut Market contractor on arecanut brought to the market.

270. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) what is the commission which the Ottupara arecant market licensee is allowed to collect on arecanut that is brought there?

(b) what does he collect actually?

(c) has not the licensee admitted in his deposition as witness of the defendant (Sirkar) in the case referred to at page 1023, Volume III, part 12, Third Series of Council Proceedings that he is collecting excessive commissions?

Rama Varmha Tampuran—(a) The fee is collected in kind, *i. e.* one land-full from every bundle of nut that is sold in the market. No fee is, however, collected from a bundle returned unsold. This kind of collection is called "ഓരം" and it is common to all arceanut markets. Over and above this a sum of annas four is collected by the market owner on every Thulam (1500 Rs. Wt.) of nut sold as a remuneration for drying, storing, packing and forwarding the articles to the Railway station. The licensee of the Ottupara market is collecting the fees detailed above.

(b) Vide answer to (a) above.

(c) Government have no information.

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